

peace scheme overboard—he will be placed in the position of Germany's peace agent, according to the Entente. Opinion is expressed to-day that the President has already gone too far to turn back. It is believed to pay the price of his peace ideals by playing Germany's game from now on, they say. He can hardly refuse to permit the Kaiser to be the confidential spokesman for German efforts to persuade the Entente to end the war, and he can hardly decline to exert such pressure for peace, as Berlin dictates, it is explained. The broad question which confronts the President now is whether he will retreat at once from his position of self-constituted mediator, or continue in his role of peace agent for the German Government, as Entente diplomats look upon it. There is, they say, no other alternative. They do not believe the President will retreat from his position. They doubt if he can do so with good grace, especially as he thrust himself into the diplomatic negotiations without being asked.

**Bernstorff is sanguine.**

Count von Bernstorff, it is understood, believes the President will accomplish his peace aim in the position of self-constituted mediator. The feeling in German circles is quite the reverse of that in the Entente. Admission is made frankly that the United States is now making its peace overtures with the same purpose. Prediction is made freely that the President will not regret having added his voice to the peace movement simultaneously with that of the Central Powers.

If the Imperial German Government's attitude were translated into ordinary every day language it would be: "Mr. President, stand firmly by us as you have started out to do, and together we will see that the Entente agrees to at least discuss peace terms."

In German circles the idea persists that the Entente will not close the door to peace parley. Reference is now made to a conference to establish "preliminary peace," that is, an agreement as to territorial questions among the belligerents.

**Guarantees for Future.**

Then would come, it is said, such matters as guarantees for the future, freedom of the seas, disarmament, the League to Enforce Peace, etc., at which the United States and the Central Powers would be present.

German diplomats said to-night that the calling of a conference by the belligerents was a step which was absolutely essential to any peace plan. The President's note is interpreted in these circles as indicating that idea.

One Teuton official, who he had talked to hundreds of persons, including officials, about the possible peace parleys and not one of them had for a moment believed that discussion of peace was possible without a conference where matters of importance to the warring nations could be discussed confidentially.

**Teutons Beat on Parley.**

Admission was made to-night in Teuton circles that Berlin does not regard the League to Enforce Peace idea important at this juncture. It was pointed out with a touch of sarcasm that this plan of the President might result simply in insisting on a guarantee from the defeated nations that they would not try to regain what they had lost.

But if President Wilson desires to have the League to Enforce Peace made a part of the discussions Germany will accommodate him, Germany would, it is said, agree to discuss anything at all provided the Entente agrees to attend the proposed conference.

A policy of absolute silence regarding the peace negotiations has been adopted by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. It was stated officially to-day that all steps heretofore will be regarded as confidential, that no comment will be made on any development and that rumors will not be discussed in any way.

In many quarters the official attitude was considered as a serious step to secret exchanges were expected to follow if they did not precede the formal answers of the Entente nations to the notes of President Wilson and the Central Powers.

**Text of German Reply.**

The official text of the German reply, which differs slightly in phraseology from the unofficial, follows: "The Imperial Government has accepted and considered in the friendly spirit which is apparent in the communication of the President (the noble initiative of the President looking to the creation of bases for the foundation of a lasting peace."

The President discloses the aim which lies next to his heart and leaves the choice of the way open. "A direct exchange of views appears to the Imperial Government as the most suitable way of attaining this aim. The Imperial Government has accepted and considered in the friendly spirit which is apparent in the communication of the President (the noble initiative of the President looking to the creation of bases for the foundation of a lasting peace."

**Text of Austrian Reply.**

The text of the Austrian reply, sent through Ambassador Penfield, follows: "Aide Memoire in reply to the aide memoire communicated to-day by the Imperial Government, containing the proposals of the President of the United States of America, for an exchange of views among the Powers at present at war for the eventual establishment of peace, the Imperial and Royal Government desires particularly to point out that in considering the noble proposal of the President it is guided by the same spirit of amity and compliance as finds expression therein."

The President desires to establish a basis for a lasting peace without wishing to indicate the ways and means. The Imperial and Royal Government considers a direct exchange of views among the belligerents to be the most suitable way of attaining this end. Adverting to its declaration of the 12th inst., in which it announced its readiness to enter into peace negotiations, it now has the honor to propose that representatives of the belligerent Powers convene at an early date at some place on neutral ground."

The Imperial and Royal Government likewise concurs in the opinion of the President that the present war will be possible to undertake the great and desirable work of the prevention of future wars. At an appropriate time it will be willing to cooperate with the United States of America for the realization of this noble aim."

**GREECE GETS PEACE NOTE.**

U. S. Minister Submits German Proposals Also to Serbia.

ATHENS, via London, Dec. 28.—Gartrell Droppers, the American Minister to Greece, communicated today to the Serbian and Greek Governments the peace overtures of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, and also the suggestion made by President Wilson to the belligerents urging them to define their aims.

King Constantine and Prince Nicholas of Greece held a long conference this afternoon, when the note of President Wilson was discussed. The King is considering the question of personally replying to the President's suggestion.

## BRITISH LAUD CZAR'S ANTI-PEACE UKASE

Papers Say Other Allies Should Follow Lead of Russia and State Terms.

SURE OF GREAT TRIUMPH

"Westminster Gazette" Hopes for Adequate Reply to Mr. Wilson's Note.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The official order issued by Emperor Nicholas, stating that the time has not arrived for peace negotiations, takes the leading place to-day in both the news and editorial sections of the evening newspapers. Some of them suggest that the other members of the Entente should follow the lead of Russia and state their terms. The Standard says:

"We cordially welcome this frank exposition of war aims from one considerable member of the alliance. It would do no harm and it might do much good if the other allies made it clear once for all that there can now be no question of restoration of the status quo. There has been far too much inclination in this country to treat the mere evacuation of occupied territories as a test of sincerity on Germany's part."

"We trust the Allies in their reply to the peace overtures will emphasize the point made by the Emperor, and they might go further. They might point out that Prussia has broken faith time and again and that there is every reason to suspect treacherous designs in her present approach, and that no peace could be safe for Europe which leaves Prussian military might at the prestige of victory, which would be the minimum demands of Russia and Italy."

**Allies Condemn Big Victory.**

"It is now quite time that belligerents and neutrals understood the true situation. The Allies believe they can inflict very shortly a crushing military defeat on Germany. She will then be offered peace on the lines of restoration of Alsace-Lorraine, relinquishment of her spoils, the loss of her colonies and the payment of suitable indemnities, while her allies will be asked to accept the minimum demands of Russia and Italy."

The Westminster Gazette expresses the hope that the Allies will reply fully and adequately to President Wilson's note, saying:

"The note gives us an opportunity of restating the case against the Central Powers, by which we shall get on with the question of war or peace, and have the right to express their views. What we have to show them is that if we continue the war it is not from mere lust of fighting or desire for conquest, but the real conviction that lasting peace cannot be established unless a definite conclusion of the struggle is reached."

**View of German Paper.**

"Meanwhile the German press continues to utter the same old refrain. The Vossische Zeitung tells Russia that the question of the Dardanelles can be solved satisfactorily without further fighting and promises that the Germans will yield as far as they can without endangering their future. If the internal situation of the Central Powers and their prospects in men and munitions are what we suppose, we shall get on from point to point until we reach the stage where our necessary aims become realistic."

The Manchester Guardian, taking the point of view that Germany has rejected the proposals made in the American note, says that President Wilson's suggestion, instead of being "a dark German scheme," is so embarrassing to Germany that it is evaded altogether in the reply, which recurs instead to the present war, which has had made, which the Allies already had rejected.

**Denunciation "Superfluous."**

"British denunciation of the note is clearly superfluous," says the Guardian. "The task of our Foreign Office will be very much lightened if Germany refuses to carry her definition of the word 'peace' to its logical conclusion. It is clear we on our side can go no further for the time being. President Wilson by the issue of his note has cleared his conscience, and if Germany now resumes or rather increases submarine 'frigate' warfare as to strain her relations with the United States, the President will at any rate stand before his people as one who did his utmost to avert catastrophe by an effort to reach lasting peace."

The Guardian also takes the ground that the German reply hints that the proposal to establish a league to insure peace after the present war will not constitute an item in peace negotiations, and adds:

"Yet how appropriate it would have been to discuss a league of nations in connection, for example, with Germany's most cherished plans for 'freedom of the seas.'"

**Teuton's Offer is Negatory.**

"We are inclined to infer that unless Germany is prepared to go much further this first chapter of peace negotiations is closed. Germany attempted to figure in the role of a magnanimous victor, but a magnanimous victor ought not to appear on the stage in a palpable state of hunger. The Allies took the measure of her proposals without difficulty, and the President brought it to the test of definition."

"The offer as it stands is negatory. Our reply to Germany is not to be delivered, but unless her reply to it is wholly different in substance from her reply to the United States no advance on this line can be made."

"Yet things will not be quite the same again. We shall have no conference for the present, nor even any formal negotiations, but the word peace for two or three weeks has been in every one's mouth, and in no country can men speak of peace without raising an atmosphere of longing."

**SPANISH POLICY UNDECIDED.**

Cabinet Still Discussing Government's Attitude Toward Peace.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The Spanish Cabinet has reached no decision in regard to the attitude of the Government toward the peace movement. A Havas dispatch from Madrid says Premier Romanones has issued an unqualified denial of the report that Spain already has given assent to the American and Swiss notes, saying that when the policy of the Government has been determined it will be communicated at once to the country.

**RELIEVE THROAT IRRITATION.**

THE NEW & OLD FINEST TROCHES.

BROWN'S TROCHES.

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## WANT NO NEUTRALS IN PEACE TALKS

Interference by America Intolerable, View of Part of German Press.

OFFICIALS ARE PLEASED

Opinions of Newspaper Not Shared in Administration Circles.

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 28.—Germany's answer to President Wilson and the promise with which it was made have caused a good impression generally in the press. Only the anti-American newspapers show a tendency to dissent and express the view that interference of any kind by America is intolerable. The latter papers find a certain satisfaction in the proposal that delegates of the belligerents meet on neutral territory, which is interpreted as clearly excluding the participation of neutrals in the conference.

Count von Reventlow, while avoiding a direct attack on the German answer, assumes that no German delegate will be found willing to take a seat at the same table with English and French delegates after the recent speeches of Premiers Lloyd George and Briand, or until those speeches are apologized for.

The Tagliche Rundschau says that the note emphatically rejects the participation of neutrals in a peace conference, which, it thinks, would unduly prolong negotiations, besides disturbing the natural determining forces. It believes that the German people will approve of the proposal in the German note that the question of a league to enforce peace be postponed until after a settlement of the present war. It reasons that by pursuing such a course the problem of permanent world peace can be dealt with by an assembly in which all the nations of the world can take a share.

**Unfavorable Interpretation.**

The disposition of certain Pan-German newspapers to read an unfavorable interpretation into the Austrian and German replies to President Wilson's note, is not shared in official circles where the interpretation generally voiced is that the reply is the result of a logical acceptance of President Wilson's suggestion promoting the prospects of peace now and in the future and an effort in the same direction as the original peace proposal of the Central Powers."

The speed with which the Austro-German answer was delivered is a further indication, according to a high German official, of the readiness to accept here of President Wilson's ideas.

He declared that as far as he considered the intimation in President Wilson's communication regarding the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the belligerents in an ultimate peace settlement the answer lay less with the Central Powers than with their adversaries. He said that the German Government had proclaimed as their goal of war the detachment of Alsace-Lorraine from Germany, Galicia, Bukovina and the Adriatic provinces from Austria-Hungary and Constantinople and Armenia from Turkey.

**Not Optimistic About Peace.**

As to the prospect that peace will result directly from the present negotiations and interchange of notes there is no marked display of optimism in either official or unofficial circles. The example of the Postponement negotiations, which ended the Japanese-Russian war, is, however, sometimes recalled. The diplomat already quoted expressed the personal opinion that the Entente would probably reject the German proposal for a conference in a neutral country. He said that if the proposal was accepted Switzerland was the most probable place for the meeting because of the central position, telegraphic facilities, adequate hotel accommodations and the belief, he said, both sides had in its complete neutrality.

**CHEMUNG'S SKIPPER IS HOME.**

Capt. John L. Duffy Tells How U- Boat Sank His Craft.

Capt. John L. Duffy, a square jawed American, who commanded the Amerigo, a submarine of the U. S. Navy, November 26 by a German submarine in the Mediterranean with her Stars and Stripes flying over her tailfin, arrived yesterday by the French liner Rochambeau, from Bordeaux.

The skipper said he had stopped his ship after the submarine had fired a shot across the bow and had sent his men to the German. He was ordered to haul down his flag, which he refused to do, saying his ship should sink with colors flying. He did abandon the Amerigo and the submarine sank her with a torpedo. He was treated courteously, he said, and the German towed his two lifeboats until they sighted the Spanish Salvadora liner, which took the American's crew aboard. The skipper said he would sail again with a contract for a belligerent port as soon as he had been released with his family at 237 East 163d street.

**WAR HERO BACK FROM FRANCE**

Roswell Sanders of Newburyport, Mass., Decorated for Bravery.

Roswell Sanders of Newburyport, Mass., who won the war cross and the military medal for conspicuous bravery under fire while driving an ambulance at Verdun in September, arrived yesterday on the French liner Rochambeau, from Bordeaux, his face scarred from shrapnel that tore off the head of his comrade in the ambulance service, Joseph Kelly of Chicago.

He and Kelly answered a call for volunteers to follow the charging French troops and bring back the wounded. He was within 150 yards of the German trenches when wounded. He is here to recuperate.

**\$25,000 Fire in Nevada.**

WINNEMCCA, Nev., Dec. 28.—Eight buildings in the business district here were destroyed by fire to-day, causing a loss of \$25,000.

**1917 New Year Gifts**

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make most acceptable gifts, and if selected to suit the recipient's tastes, they will be appreciated more than any other gift of the year.

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## AMERICANS WOUNDED IN FIGHT AT VERDUN

Shell Strikes Ambulance During Recapture of Pepper Ridge.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—News of the destruction of an American ambulance and the wounding of its driver in the battle of Verdun, which was the result of a French victory at Verdun on December 15 was received here to-day when Henry D. Morrison, treasurer of the American Volunteer Motor Ambulance Corps, arrived after inspecting the unit at the French front.

The Americans were most active during the hottest fighting at Verdun. A unit commanded by Richard Norton was in the midst of the terrible attack when the French recaptured Pepper Ridge. They remained on duty thirty-nine hours without rest, making scores of trips from advance posts back to field hospitals.

During one of these trips the unit's best car was struck by a German shell, which smashed it into scrap iron. Hewitt, the driver, was thrown a great distance, and had a wonderful escape, being only badly bruised, while Moore and Duke, two attendants, were buried under the debris and also narrowly escaped death. The car had just left the hospital and was en route to the front when it was struck.

Ronald Tree, a grandson of Marshall Field, narrowly escaped the same night. He was returning through shell wrecked Verdun, when a huge oak was struck and fell across the road. The car was destroyed in the collision, but the young American escaped without the slightest injury.

## GERMANY ANSWERS SWISS PEACE NOTE

Communication on Same Lines as the Reply Sent to President Wilson.

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 28.—The German reply to the Swiss note was handed to the Swiss Minister yesterday. It is on the same lines as the reply to President Wilson. The text of the reply is as follows:

"The Imperial Government has taken note of the fact that the Swiss Federal Council, as the result of its having placed itself in communication with the President of the United States, is also ready to take action and side with the United States toward bringing about an understanding between the Central Powers and toward the attainment of a lasting peace."

"The spirit of true humanity whereby the steps of the Federal Council are inspired is fully appreciated and esteemed by the Imperial Government."

"The Imperial Government has informed the President of the United States that a direct exchange of views seems to it to be the most suitable means of obtaining the desired result."

"Led by the same considerations which caused Germany on December 12 to offer her proposals for peace, the Government has proposed an immediate meeting of all the belligerents at a neutral place."

"In agreement with the President of the United States, the Government is of the opinion that the great work of preventing future wars can only be taken in hand after the present world war has been terminated. So long as the war continues they will joyfully be ready to cooperate in this sublime task."

"If Switzerland, which is faithful to its noble traditions in mitigating the sufferings caused by the present war and has won unending gratitude, will also contribute to safeguarding the world's peace, the German nation and Government will highly welcome such action."

A Vienna dispatch says the Austro-Hungarian Government answered the Swiss note by transmitting a copy of the note sent to President Wilson. A covering message assured the Helvetic Government that the "noble minded suggestion" of President Wilson was met with a thoroughly sympathetic reception from Austria-Hungary. The message added that the Austro-Hungarian Government regarded the Swiss action as supporting the noble and humane disposition which Switzerland, since the beginning of the war, has manifested toward all the belligerents."

**KEEP OIL FROM THE GERMANS.**

Allies Destroyed \$150,000,000 in Rumanian Fields, Says M. P.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Speaking to-day at a meeting of the Rumanian Consolidated Oil Fields, William W. Rutherford, member of Parliament from the West Derby division, told the assembly that the value of the oil fields destroyed by the Allies in the Rumanian retreat amounted to \$150,000,000 (\$150,000,000). It was a wholesale destruction, he added, carried out by a British military mission acting under the instruction of headquarters. This work rendered the prospect of the German oil fields to the foe. The oil wells of Germany companies met a similar fate, he said.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Dec. 28.—The Vrijheid of Cologne reproduces the narrative of an officer of the German General Staff in regard to the Rumanian campaign, in which it is said the destruction wrought in the Rumanian oil fields was "terrible," surpassing everything else of the kind during the war.

**RUSSIANS WIN IN CAUCASUS.**

Turks Defeated South of Van and Fall Back on Ill.

PETROPOLE, via London, Dec. 28.—A Russian success on the Caucasian front, in the neighborhood of Van, was announced to-day by the War Office. The statement follows:

"We occupied the whole summit to the south of Ataman, south of Van. The Turks have withdrawn in the direction of the village of Ill."

**Kennedy**

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## PARIS SEES REFUSAL IN GERMANY'S REPLY

Berlin Intentionally Reverses Wilson's Terms, the "Matin" Asserts.

TRAP SET, SAYS CAPUS

Lausanne Paper Charges Evasion of Swiss Proposal Also.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The morning newspapers to-day are unanimous in pronouncing the German answer to President Wilson's note to the belligerents a polite refusal to comply with his suggestion. "Germany," says the Matin, "intentionally reverses the terms of President Wilson's note and requests representatives of the nations at war to seat themselves at a conference table and talk at random without knowing what they intend to say. She knows the Allies will never make peace on the terms which she at present is disposed to offer, but during the period of temporary slackening in hostilities she will be able to obtain fresh supplies, while secretly planning new military operations, just as she prepared for mobilization during the diplomatic conversations of July, 1914."

"Trying to hoodwink us." While giving satisfaction to the United States by a clear explanation of our duties, it behooves us now more than ever to keep a close watch on the movements of the enemy at an hour when he is attempting to hoodwink us. The Petit Parisien says:

"The reply of Germany and Austria-Hungary is not a direct, loyal answer to the American suggestion. It is only a hypocritical expedient. President Wilson asks the belligerents to state their conditions. The Central Powers ignore that and asked for a conference with out any preliminaries. That is a trap in which they very naively thought to catch the Allies."

"One understands the haste with which they replied without waiting for the concerted note of the Allies, which it is a pity was not sent earlier. President Wilson asked for a conference with the maintenance of lasting peace. Berlin and Vienna postponed their explanations until later. The President of the United States can in no way declare himself satisfied with the German reply."

Stephen Pichon writes in the Petit Journal:

"The American note, regarding the inspiration of which we are as yet not sufficiently enlightened, has at least had the effect of suggesting a German manoeuvre. That is a self-evident truth which we formulated here from the very first. It is now fully proved that it is the German Government which has asked Germany for the details of the peace she wished to conclude to make it impossible for her to furnish them."

"The Her government's reply to President Wilson proposes a meeting of delegates at a neutral city. That city, if it was selected, would remain forever famous as the scene of the greatest trap in history. France, not to speak of our allies, would come out the vassal of her adversaries of to-day, and so many prodigious sacrifices, so much glory won in marvelous battles, would have only served to make of us a subject and a fallen people."

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Germany's reply to President Wilson's note is regarded as an evasion by the Lausanne Gazette, which says:

"The Her government pretends to welcome President Wilson's initiative, but it really evades answering the American note as well as the Swiss one. It suggests a conference behind closed doors and at the conclusion of which each of the negotiators would be free to boast of extensive concessions made and accuse his adversary of secret reservations and bad faith."

"What the appeal of Washington and Bern is for the justification in full daylight of the objects of the war, but, the objects pursued being evidently contained in the motives of those who lost the war, the most obvious conclusion being made apparent. It is easy to see what a formidable indictment they would form and why Berlin and Vienna insist on discussing peace on the basis of the war map and refuse a procedure which would throw a full light on the responsibility for the war."

**SCHLESWIG TO CALL OUT BOYS.**

Despatch Says All Over 17 Will Be Sent to Front.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A special despatch from Copenhagen says that according to the Ritz-Aftenblatt it is the intention of the youth of Schleswig who have completed their seventeenth year will be summoned for a physical examination in January.

After a short training those who are found fit will be sent to the front.

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## COUNT CZERNIN NOW FOREIGN MINISTER

Austro-Hungarian Official Asks Cooperation of German Chancellor.